



# THE MAXX



# image

TM

COMICS PRESENTS



TM

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Printed in Canada

# SPRING CLEANING

AFTER A LONG NIGHT OF COMPARING NOTES...

SO, JULIE,  
ARE YOU KEEPING  
ALL THESE HOCKEY  
STICKS, OR  
WHAT?

YES.

THAT WAS  
REALLY WEIRD...  
HOW THAT WHITE...  
THINGIE BURST IN  
HERE AND GRABBED  
MY DAD'S HEAD AND  
VANISHED, HUH?

YEAH,  
THAT WAS  
WEIRD.

AFTER  
HANGING WITH  
MAXX SO LONG,  
I CAN'T TELL  
ANYMORE.

I HATE MY DAD,  
PRETENDING TO BE  
DEAD, WHEN ALL THE  
TIME HE WAS THAT  
RAPIST-MURDERER,  
MR. GONE.

AND YOU  
CUT HIS HEAD  
OFF! THAT'S THE  
BRAVEST THING  
I EVER HEARD  
OF.

SARAH... DO  
YOU HATE HIM  
FOR BEING A MASS  
MURDERER... OR  
'CAUSE HE LEFT  
YOU?

NO, SARAH...  
THE BRAVEST  
THING I COULD'VE  
DONE WOULD'VE  
BEEN TO LISTEN  
TO HIM.

BIG  
GULP

BIG  
GULP

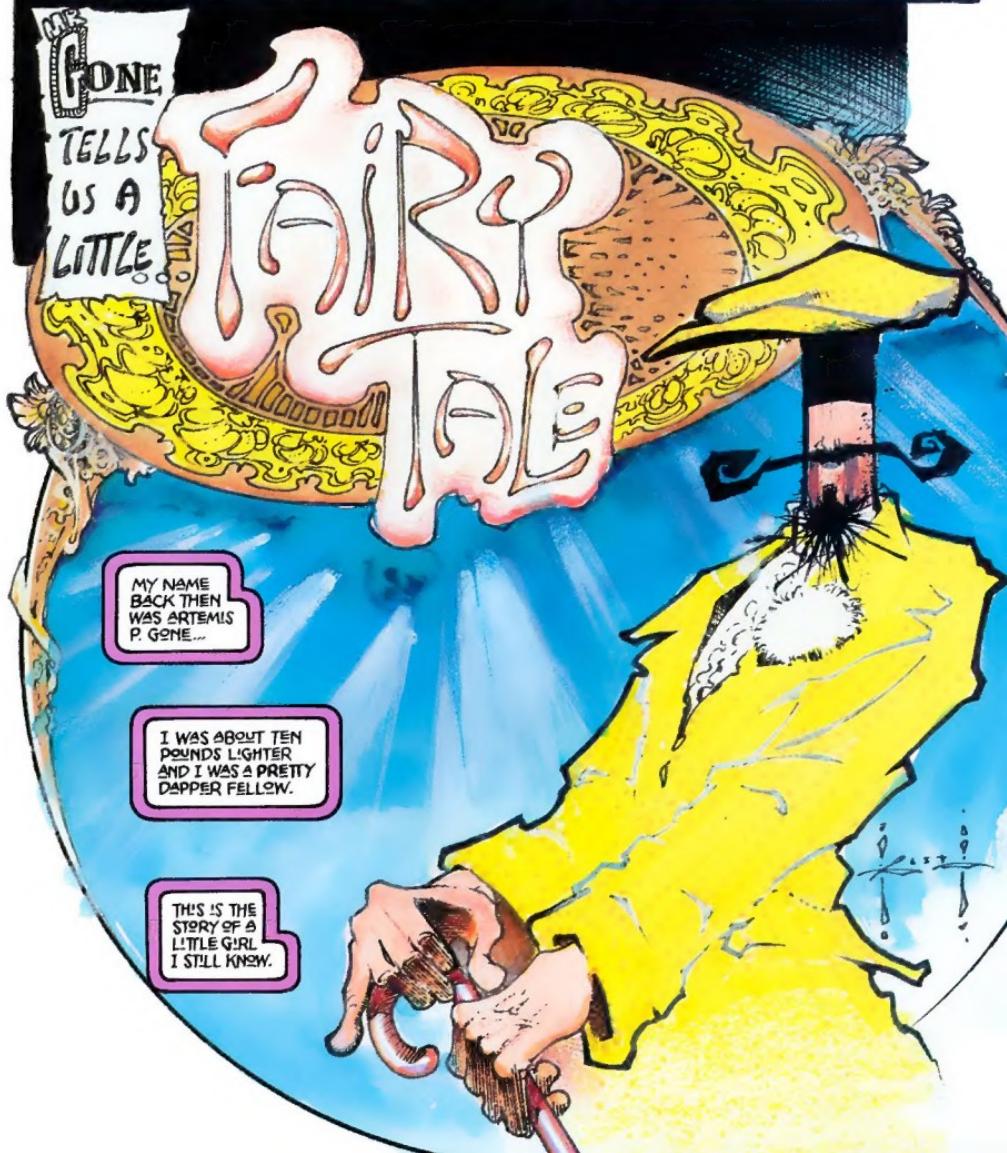
BIG  
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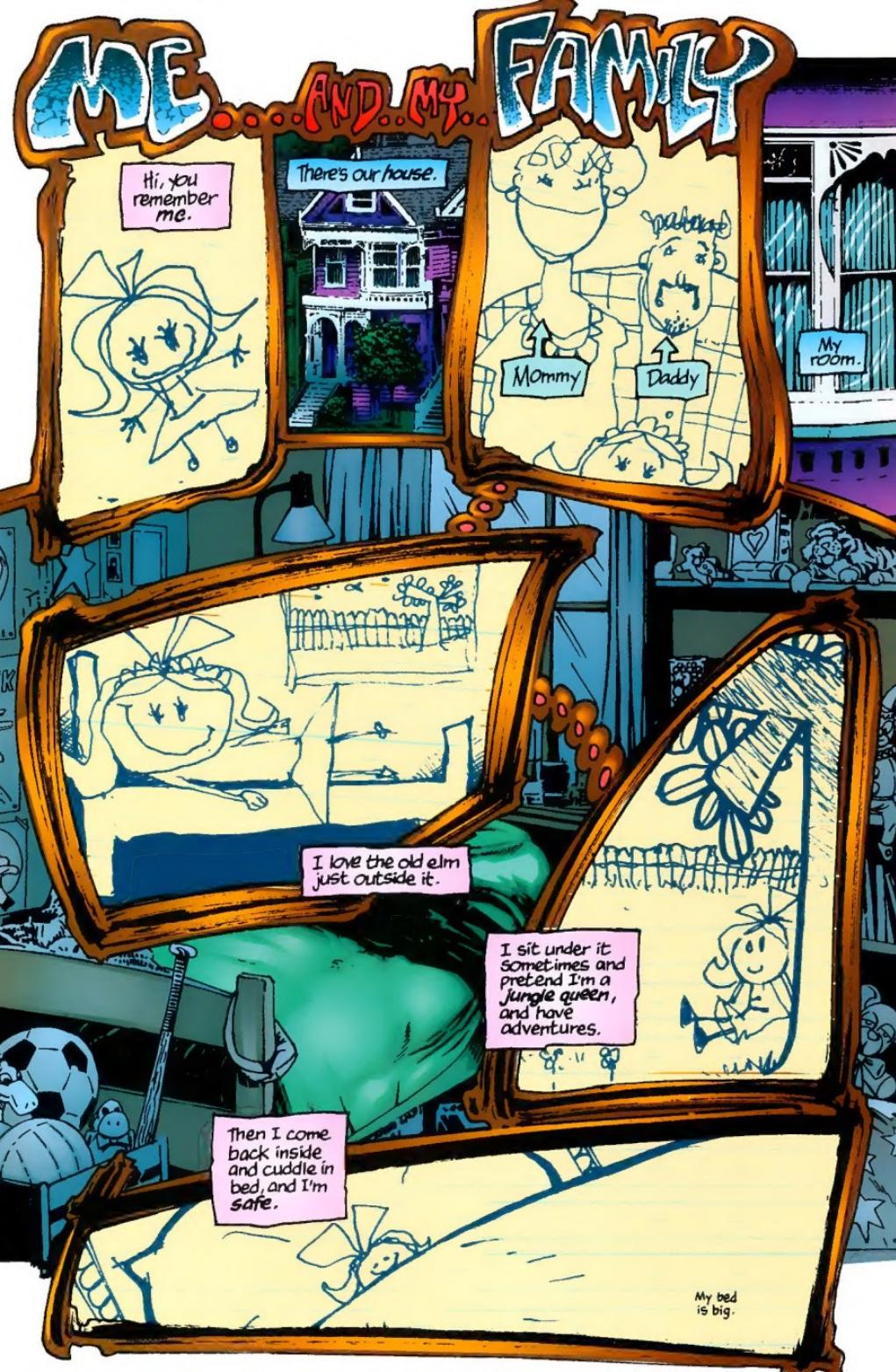
I want  
to marry a  
lighthouse  
keeper...!

VERY  
GOOD  
DOCTOR.  
KEEP THESE  
BRACES TIGHT.  
THEY'RE GOING  
TO KEEP MY  
SPINAL CORD  
IN PLACE!

...and  
keep her  
by the sea!  
d.d.

AND LISTEN, DOC.  
DON'T GO ALL TENSE  
ON ME JUST 'CAUSE THERE'S  
A SMALL ARMY OF ISZ  
WAITING BEHIND THAT  
DOOR. IT'S NOT LIKE I'M  
GONNA HAVE THEM EAT  
YOU WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED  
SEWING MY HEAD  
BACK ON. HEH.





My daddy  
draws  
buildings.

26.9

383

He draws the insides of office buildings downtown. This will be the lobby of the Dexter-Balsco-something building. It will be beautiful. If it ever gets built.

If I was going to work in a building, this is where I'd work.

Daddy wanted to paint covers for paperbacks, but he didn't. Cause publishers are dumb, Mommy says.

Sometimes when he thinks I'm asleep, Daddy stabs the drawings he makes with his pencil, over and over, and says bad things.

Daddy always smells like a closet with a lot of polished shoes and hats in it.

Mommy is pretty. But she always says how she's "just a ditherbrain."

Oh, HELLO,  
MR. WALTERS.  
NO, JOHN ISN'T  
HOME.

HE DIDN'T GET THE RAISE? YES, I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND. BUT JOHN WILL BE DEVASTATED. HE'LL HATE LEAVING YOU.

LEAVE?  
OH, YES. THAT NICE MR. TATE HAS BEEN CALLING EVERY DAY. TWICE, SOMETIMES.

PAT  
PAT  
PAT  
PAT  
PAT  
PAT

BUT JOHN KEEPS SAYING HOW HE'D RATHER STAY WITH YOU, IF HE HAD EVEN A LITTLE MORE...

YOU CAN?  
YOU WILL? HOW VERY GENEROUS OF YOU, MR. WALTERS.

GUESS WHAT? OLD MAN WALTERS CAME THROUGH!

Oh, BETTER NOT WORRY MY PRETTY LITTLE HEAD ABOUT BUSINESS MATTERS...

Lh-huh.

PIZZA FOR BOTH MY GIRLS!



Daddy and I have a lot in common—bugs, for instance.

Ick!  
A bug!

ICK!  
A BUG!

MAYBE IF  
WE DON'T DO  
ANYTHING,  
IT'LL JUST  
WALK OUT OF  
HERE ON ITS  
OWN.

UH-OH...

TIME  
FOR DINNER,  
EVERYBODY!

CRUNCH!

Mommy always does what has to be done. Something in her shuts off...

...and then she pretends it didn't happen.

I guess that's what being a Mommy is all about.

# ONE DAY

SREEEEEEE

I find a  
bunny in  
the road...

QUACK

...squashed like  
a piece of clay.

Like the clay  
I make my  
pretend houses  
out of.

It's  
hurt.

Screaming.

I didn't  
know bunnies  
could scream.

But I figure  
I can make  
it better...

...like I fix  
my houses  
after I smash  
them with a  
hammer.

So I take it  
home, so it can  
be my friend.  
It's not  
screaming  
anymore.

But all it  
does is look  
up at me...  
and wait.

My  
stomach  
hurts.

Uncle Artie came to visit one day. I thought Mom said he moved.

He just went to Australia, but now he's back.

He stays down the hall from me.

I guess I like him okay.

CLICK

Sometimes he whistles.

AIRWHALES!  
AND FLYING  
SNAILS BIG AS  
YR FIST!

Except when he makes too much noise to hear Captain Kangaroo...

Sometimes I think he looks just like my doll...

Daddy likes to talk to him for hours, to laugh with him. Then he leaves.

Just drives away.

Leaving me alone...

...alone with my little friend.

SCRRP SCRRP SCRRP



The bunny is under my bed all the time, now.

It doesn't get better. It just makes this little scraping noise with its good leg.

I can hear it all the time now.

Even when I'm in the yard under my tree.

G'NIGHT, PUNKIN.

Nothing is any fun anymore.

All I can do is hear that noise. My stomach hurts.

Then, suddenly, it stops.

I want to make it better, but I'm not sure how.

SO, JULIE,  
C'N I THROW  
OUT THE  
CRACKED  
RECORDS?

NO.

THE  
BROKEN  
FLOWERPOTS?

NO.

YOU CAN'T  
TAKE ALL THIS  
STUFF.

**SUPER TRAMP**  
BREAKFAST  
IN AMERICA



THE SPLIT  
GOLF BALLS?  
YOU DON'T  
EVEN PLAY...

YOU  
NEVER  
KNOW.

I THINK THIS  
WOULD BE AN  
EXCELLENT  
PLACE FOR AN  
INTERMISSION,  
DOCTOR.

DOES IT SURPRISE  
YOU THAT I, MR.  
GONE, AM A  
STUDENT OF IRONY?  
WELL, I AM.

FOR EXAMPLE,  
THE WHITE ISZ,  
WHO CAME OVER  
FROM THE OUTBACK  
TO SAVE ME, IS  
CURRENTLY BEING  
TORMENTED BY  
HIS BROTHERS,  
THE BLACK ISZ.

ALTHOUGH ALL ISZ  
ARE BASICALLY THE  
SAME CREATURES,  
THE BLACK ISZ WERE  
TURNED INSIDE OUT  
BY THE DIMENSIONAL  
WARP INTO THIS  
WORLD, BUT THE  
WHITE ISZ FOUND A  
LIGHT HOLE AND  
WAS UNCHANGED.

THEREFORE,  
INSTINCTIVELY,  
THEY HATE HIM,  
AND TRY TO  
DROP HIM ON THE  
SOFT SPOT OF HIS  
HEAD. IRONIC, NO?

AND ALTHOUGH  
HE RESCUED ME  
FROM PUTREFACTION  
AND I COULD END  
HIS TORTURE WITH  
A WORD, I WON'T.  
I FIND THAT  
VERY IRONIC.

HOWEVER, SINCE YOU KNOW THAT  
ONCE YOU ARE DONE, THE BLACK  
ISZ WILL PROBABLY DEVOUR YOU  
ALSO, I CAN SEE WHY THE MORE  
SUBTLE ASPECTS OF HIS PLIGHT  
ARE LOST ON YOU. PITY. TO  
CONTINUE...



SCRAP  
SCRAP

SCRAP  
SCRAP  
SCRAP  
SCRAP

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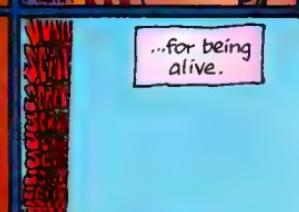
SCRAP  
SCRAP  
SCRAP  
SCRAP

SCRAP  
SCRAP  
SCRAP  
SCRAP

I can't sleep.  
It's like the  
bunny was  
scrapping right  
under my  
stomach.

I am desperate  
and angry with  
the bunny for  
being sick and  
bothering me...

...for being alive.



PUNKIN?  
CAN WE SEE  
WHAT YOU'VE  
GOT THERE?

OH, GOD.  
LOOK AT ITS  
LEG!

HIM, SWEETIE?  
THE BUNNY NEEDS  
TO LIVE OUT IN THE  
GARAGE TO GET  
BETTER.

THAT  
WAS VERY  
STRONG  
OF YOU,  
JOHN.

Bunny?

They leave.  
All I know is  
I tried to  
help the bunny  
and I failed.







SEVERAL DAYS LATER...

JULIE,  
HONEY, YOU  
BROKE YOUR  
DOLL...



Uh, YOUR MOM  
AND I ARE WORRIED  
ABOUT YOU HONEY.  
YOU SHOULDN'T WORRY  
ABOUT THE BUNNY SO  
MUCH. IT'LL PROBABLY...  
Um... GET BETTER REAL  
SOON. HONEST.

Daddy can't  
lie nearly as  
good as  
Mommy can.









...or makes it  
disappear...so  
we don't have  
to think  
about  
it



SO THAT'S HOW OUR LITTLE ENTERTAINMENT ENDS, DOCTOR. NOT WITH A WHIMPER, BUT WITH A... TWACK! PRETTY AMUSING, EH?

LITTLE JULIE NEVER DID MENTION THAT INCIDENT. NEITHER DID HER MOTHER OR HER FATHER. PRETTY QUIET FAMILY, NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT.

SOMETHING IN JULIE SHUT OFF THAT NIGHT. IN A WAY, SHE'S BEEN EIGHT YEARS OLD EVER SINCE. JULIE LEARNED SOMETHING FROM HER MOM IN THAT MOMENT, SOMETHING THAT SHE WOULD USE YEARS LATER WHEN ATTACKED AND LEFT FOR DEAD: THE ABILITY TO SUPPRESS... TO SUBMERGE... AND TO BURY.

JULIE'S MOTHER LEARNED IT FROM HER MOTHER BEFORE HER, PASSED DOWN, MOTHER TO DAUGHTER... THE PAIN OF FACING IT... VERSUS THE PAIN OF KEEPING IT DOWN.

LIKE ALL THAT CRAP IN JULIE'S HOUSE -- USELESS JUNK SHE JUST WON'T LET GO OF, BURIED IN THE CLOSET. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT'S A NO-WIN PROPOSITION, EH DOC?

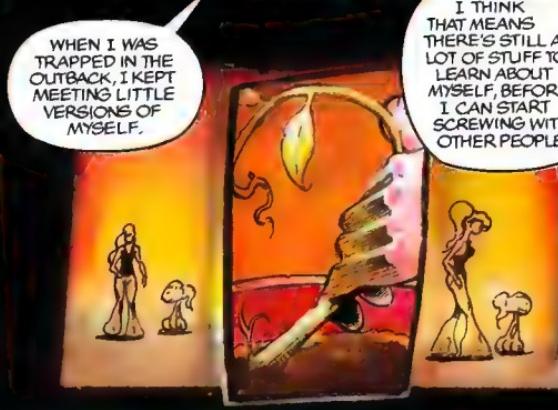


BUT ACTUALLY, YOU  
COULDN'T SAY ANY  
OF THAT, COULD YOU,  
DOCTOR?

YOU AREN'T,  
AS WE SAY,  
ALL THERE.

WELL, MOST OF YOU IS  
THERE... BUT SOME OF  
YOU IS THERE... SOME  
OF YOU IS OVER THERE...  
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

AU REVOIR, DOC.  
IT'S BEEN SWELL.



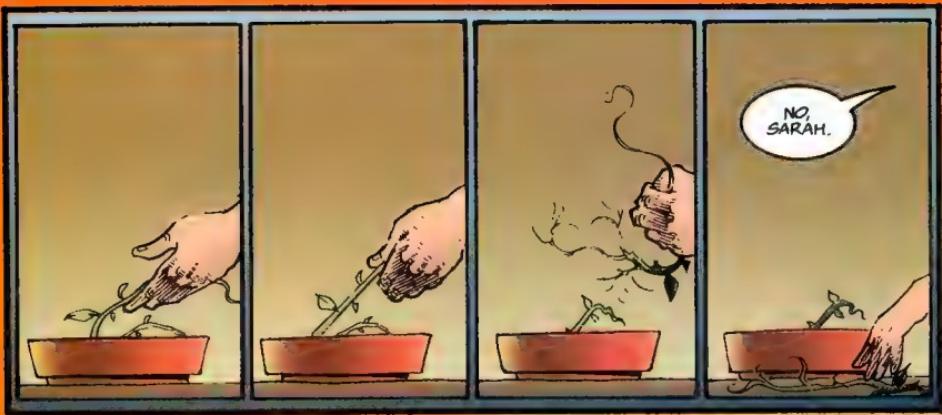
WHEN I WAS  
TRAPPED IN THE  
OUTBACK, I KEPT  
MEETING LITTLE  
VERSIONS OF  
MYSELF.



I THINK  
THAT MEANS  
THERE'S STILL A  
LOT OF STUFF TO  
LEARN ABOUT  
MYSELF, BEFORE  
I CAN START  
SCREWING WITH  
OTHER PEOPLE.



I SUPPOSE  
YOU'RE KEEPING  
THIS OLD RUSTY  
SHOVEL, TOO?



FIN



Sam,

Just wanted to drop you a line and let you know that THE MAXX is great! Even after all you had told me about it in the beginning, it still surprises me. And I have to admit that I think you found the perfect scripter in Bill Loeb.

I also wanted to let you know that DIEBOLD is finally going to come out. Brian and I have decided to publish it ourselves. Your cover looks great, Phil Zimelman did a great job coloring it. I think you'll be impressed.

DIEBOLD is not going through the normal distributor channels for the first issue. The only way someone can order a copy is through us. I'm hoping that you'll print the address here for people to order a copy. A single issue costs \$2.95, with 50 cents for postage. Each issue is 32 black and white pages. The first issue has a cover by Sam Kieth! So all you MAXXheads out there, if you wanna new piece of neat-o Kieth work, you better order this issue. And I think the

comic itself is pretty good

too. It's in a style closer to Vaughn Bode, that guy Sam talked about recently.

Whoops, almost forgot the address.  
Silent Partners/104 Oak Court/Westwego, LA 70094.

Take care.  
John Holland  
Westwego, LA

LEON VARKAUS  
Yorkshire, England

John's an old friend. We worked together on many "pre-IBE" projects. Everybody should check out his latest.

Dear Sam,

I think it would be cool if you printed a trade paperback, especially if you included Comico Primer #5. Steven Githens asked if the Maxx cartoon would be released on videotape, and you never answered. When does THE MAXX cartoon air? Since the cartoon is copyrighted by MTV, does that mean it's gonna suck?

Brandon S. Jarr

All questions about the cartoon will be answered next issue.

Sam,

Are those two lsz that are dressed up like cops all part of Mr. Gone's master plan, or did they go into business for themselves?

Your fan (and Maxx's),

Lucas Baumgartner  
Wheat Ridge, CO

Now there's a spooky thought—self-employed lsz.

Dear Sam,

My drawing was printed in Maxx #8. However, this ridiculous doodle is not the extent of my artistic ability; in fact, it's rather embarrassing.

I would sincerely appreciate it if you would print this updated version, to restore my credibility as a decent artist. I thank you very much for your time.

Blair Hart  
British Columbia

See this Maxx Traxx—somewhere. . .

Dear Mr. K.,

I am now thoroughly convinced that most of your writing (and some of your art) is accomplished while you are in a chemically modified state. You realize, of course, that

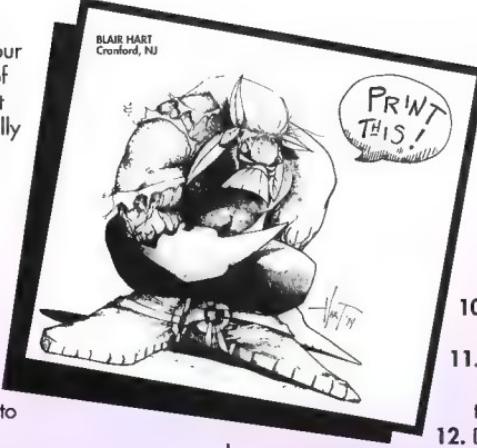
no one understands your stories and that most of your readers are cultist weirdos who don't really know what the hell they're talking about. But don't get too conceited, there is also a bad side. Another thing, I'm glad to see that you've gotten past what other people think of you. You have not yet bowed to the pressure to tell a coherent story.

Therefore, I have a few questions for you. I just recently read #7, and, based on the information I picked up from that and from #1, I can say without any reservations that I am a sight more confused than I was before. Let me ask you a few questions, some more thought-provoking than others.

1. Why is Pitt stupid enough to mistake an Is for Timmy?
2. Why is Maxx stupid enough not to realize that he is still in the apartment, even though he shrank?
3. What is the hangup with repeating the last letter of characters' names?
4. Where did you get words like "Malijoo" and "Djarnbar" from?
5. Why will the weird guy with the blowgun (that was Mr. Gone, right?) lose his head if Julie remembers her childhood in Maxx's dream?
6. How does Maxx enter the outback world? Is it a conscious thought, or does he dream himself there? Do his actions in the dream cause consequences in real life? Is Julie

really in the outback world even though she's locked in the bathroom?

7. How did Pitt get to the outback world?
8. How do you pronounce the word, "Isz"?



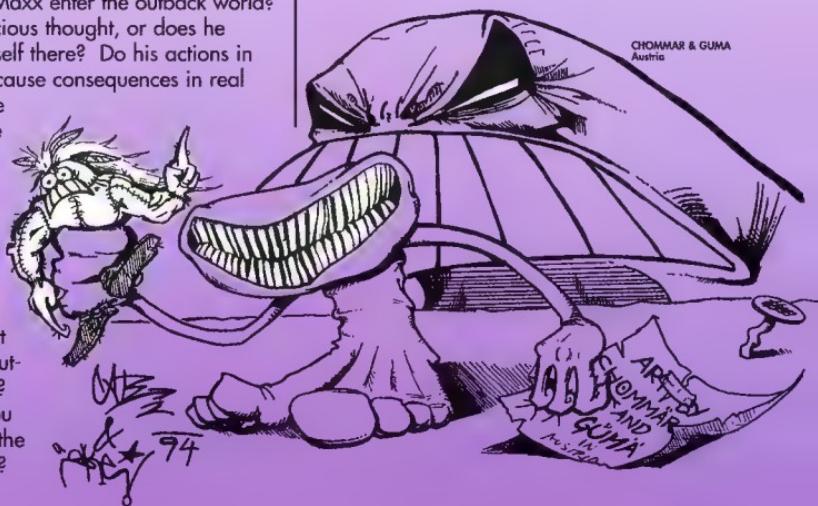
9. If Maxx is Julie's spirit animal, then who is Maxx's spirit animal? Maybe it's Julie, 'cause after all, human beings are essentially animals.

10. Does Maxx have a lower jaw?
11. What was that last question I was going to ask but forgot?
12. Do you realize I've asked you twelve questions?

But even though I'm twice as confused as the next guy, and damn proud of it, I do like THE MAXX. Some of the lines are really good: "Well, Julie's my only friend! And if you hurt her I'll . . ."

"Back, monster! Maxx would not slay you, but would rather be your tiny friend!" and, "Maxx fine. Isz fine too!"

Oh yeah, and about the Pez dispenser idea. Let's think this one through. One: you have tons of readers. Two: your readers' two main loves are Maxx and Pez. Hm, I should think you'd be doing Pez of America, Inc. a favor if you let them make a Maxx Pez dispenser. I have to say I haven't eaten Pez in a while, so you better give me a reason to start again. Except if Maxx is on the package, they'd have to call it Pezz, to honor the tradition.



There, now you have my opinion. Not that you'll ever print this kind of crap, for THE MAXX only accepts specialized types of crap (namely, yours), but at least give some thought to the Pezz idea. You're welcome for my time and attention.

Mike Coffey  
Haverton, PA

1. When an Isz wears a costume, it looks like whoever the viewer chooses to see. If a person sees an Isz dressed as, say, a cop, the subconscious chooses to see a cop because it couldn't handle such a short, weird creature dressed as a cop. (E.g., all the Dragon was looking at was two short Isz in cop outfits.)

2. Because that's the Outback Maxx that's in the apartment. The primitive Maxx is always mistaking the Outback for real life, whether he sees a blimp as an air-whale or is shrunk and sees a watermelon as an airwhale. I don't know why they shrank yet.

3. I'm gonna put that off on Bill Loebs.

4. See above.

5. Because she cuts it off—she doesn't want to hear.

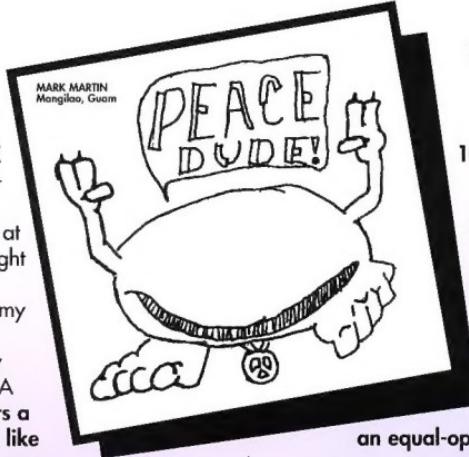
6. Maxx dreams himself there—he has no control. His actions have no direct consequences; they are

more likely to affect Julie's psyche than the real world. Yes she is, but you already know that by now.

7. That will be revealed soon.

8. Rhymes with "Take a whizz."

9. Maxx has been so busy dealing with Julie's problems,



an equal-opportunity crap-printer.

he hasn't had time to even look for his own spirit animal. But it isn't Julie.

10. Of course he does. How do you think he sucks out Pez?

11. Don't chase it. Let's talk about something else and it will come back.

12. Gee—it feels like a lot more.

Incidentally, Maxx is

Sam,

I think your artwork is terrific! I really like your comic book. The story line is great! Me and my dad went to the comic store. I saw a book there called THE MAXX #5. I picked it up and took a glance inside. It was the most colorful book I'd ever seen! I decided to try it out. After we bought it and left, we went to Red Lobster. While I was waiting for the food, I started to read. Some of it I didn't understand at first. After we ate, we went back to the comic store. We asked the man if he had anymore of THE MAXX comics. He said he had #1-#5. Since we already had #5, we bought #1-#4. I read them all that day. They were the best comics I have ever read! Keep it up!

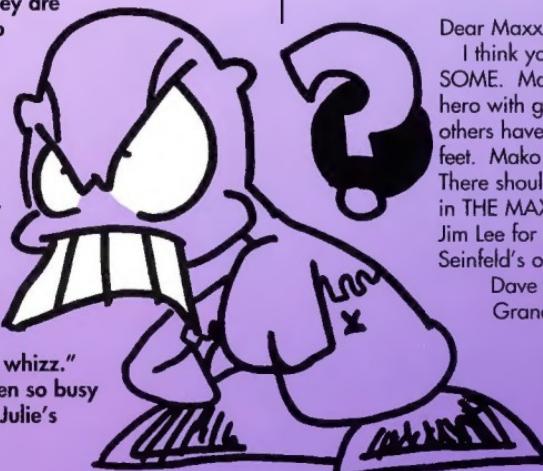
Matthew Kelly,  
Suffolk, VA

Red Lobster?

Dear Maxx Traxx,

I think your comic is AWE-SOME. Maxx is cool, finally a hero with good feet. All the others have skinny little wimpy feet. Mako was a good villain. There should be more villains in THE MAXX. Well say Hi to Jim Lee for me, I gotta go. Seinfeld's on.

Dave Pearson  
Grand Marais, MN



RICK REYES  
El Paso, TX

Sam,

Concerning MAXX #6 (Oct.). Why didn't Maxx fight? You showed him running away from Mako for almost all the book. He EVEN HAD HIS CLAWS GLUED SHUT! Then, when he finally got loose, he GOT BLOWN UP!?? What in the world? He should've ripped Mako's heart out!

I really enjoyed the way you drew the jungle princess in this issue. Can you spell "artist?"

People who claim that comic books are neither art nor literature can be proved wrong with the first six issues of THE MAXX.

Two questions, though:

1. Why does #6 say "MAXX" instead of "THE MAXX?"
2. Who is this "Tracey" that signed his name under yours? A co-artist? What part of the book is he responsible for?
3. This was as shocking as finding your trademark signature missing from issue #5.

Nathan Royce Pepper

(NR Pepper—future novelist)

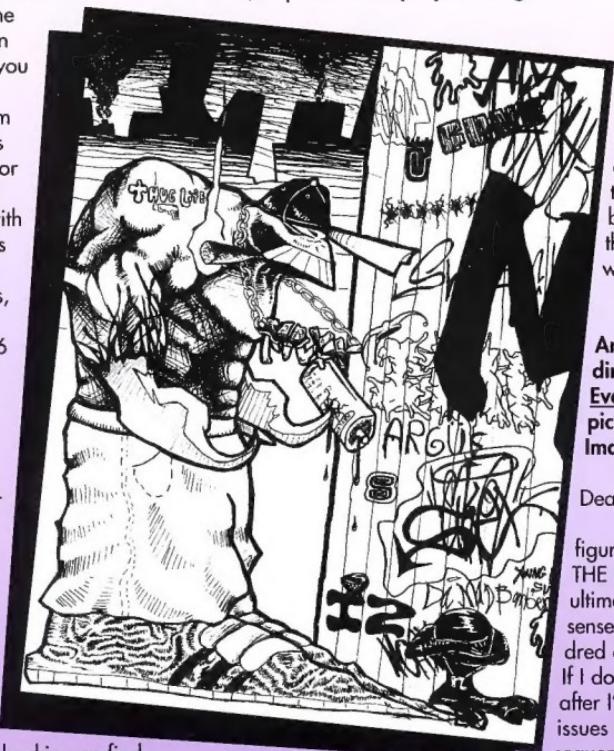
Maxx ran away because he had to—he's not the most powerful character in this book. Even Maxx isn't stupid enough to fight a battle he can't win. Neither would Mr. Gone, for that matter. Only Julie's that delusional.

1. Just wanted to see if anyone would notice.
2. Tracy is a "she"—she colored the cover you saw. On books like SPAWN and THE MAXX, the name under the artist's is often the colorist. By the way, it's hard

SVEN LOEVEN  
NY, NY

to tell on this book who does what, but I've been painting 2-3 pages per issue. Steve and Olyoptics computer-color the rest. Maybe Topps will print my painted pages in the future as 12 more trading cards—that would give me a chance to include the airwhale. Write and tell me if this idea sucks.

3. O crap—you're right.



Dear guy named Sam,  
Are you Image guys ever going to have a big picnic that everyone will go to?  
Todd Hendricks  
Are you kidding, Todd?  
Everyday's a picnic at Image!

Dear Mr. Kieth,  
I think I've figured it out. THE MAXX will ultimately make sense after a hundred or so issues. If I don't get it after I've read issues #1-#100 in sequence, I'll quit

buying your comic. But at the rate you put 'em out, it'll be at least 15 years before I have to make that decision. No, seriously, about the lateness of THE MAXX #7: is it because you were putting together a Maxx cartoon? Because that's what one of my friends told me and I don't know whether he's right or not.

Anyway, issue #7 was pretty good. I like the part where Sarah walked into Julie's apartment to find Maxx and Pitt tying up the Isz with phone cord, although I have no idea where the magic piece of talking clay fits into all of this. But the cover was a bit misleading: Maxx and Pitt didn't actually fight. Then again, maybe they'll fight in #8?

Who knows? One thing I can say about you, Sam, you're definitely not predictable.

Alright, here's what I think: Julie created the prehistoric outback world for herself out of her own childhood fantasies, except it's in her subconscious or something and she doesn't remember any of it. She can only enter it in her dream, or Maxx's dreams, or maybe both? Anyone, Maxx exists in both worlds at the same time (I think), but he can only think in one mode. For example in the first part of #7 he was City Maxx in Outback World, then when he and Pitt were playing Honey, I Shrunk the Weird Guys in Julie's apartment, he became Jungle Maxx and started to think Julie's kitchen was Pangaea and her fridge was a cliff. So when Maxx is Jungle Maxx, he's stronger, stupider and wears a head-dress and feathers. And he might be Julie's spirit animal/protector of her land, or he might be just a homeless guy who happened to pick up a mask one day. Or he might be a combination of both. Or he might even be a rabbit? Um. . .

Mr. Gone is a not-very-powerful magician who figured out a way to get into Julie's subconscious fantasyland and knows a lot more about it than either her or Maxx. And he hasn't been into the real world lately because Julie cut off his head in #2 or #3 (I can't remember which). So that's my interpretation of THE MAXX. How much of it is right?

Well, Sam, so far I think you're doing a great job with your comic book. Disregard

the guys who write in and ask "What the hell is going on?"

As you can see by the above paragraphs, I don't have much idea what is going on either, but I'm sure it'll all tie together eventually and I'll be able to say to my friends (who gave up after #1) "HA! This is the best story I've ever read. And you guys thought he was on drugs!"

You haven't sold out either. I mean, you haven't resorted to having other Image characters make gratuitous appearances just to sell books.

[I tried, but it didn't work (sigh).]

Well, you hadn't until #6 and #7, but the Dragon doesn't count because he's cool, and besides, he didn't even meet Maxx.

And Pitt doesn't count either

because he's a fellow weirdo with big teeth and two personalities. And you haven't released any spin-off mini-series. And you've never even raised the cover price. And in the little "Next Issue" box on the last page, you didn't just put "Maxx fights Pitt!", you had to go with "The Burning, Barbed Ring of Memory!"

I think that just about sums it up, don't you?

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